

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /018 W

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R 020815ZV EP 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2312

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6088

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, SA

SUBJECT: BUREAU OF CENSUS ADVISERS FOR CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF
STATISTICS

REFS: A. STATE 204658 B. OSAA 49 C. JIDDA 5832

1. REFTTEL POINTS OUT NEED FOR SOME KIND OF FORMAL UNDER-
STANDING BETWEEN WASHINGTON AGENCIES AND EMBASSY RE-
GARDING EMBASSY ROLE IN APPROVING PROJECTS. THE FACT
THAT THE INTER-AGENCY GROUP IN WASHINGTON HAS CONSIDERED
THE PROJECT DOES NOT NEGATE THE REQUIREMENT FOR EMBASSY
APPROVAL AND CANNOT SUBSTITUTE FOR ON THE SPOT EVALUATION
BY OFFICERS FAMILIAR WITH SAUDI ARABIA AND THE SAG.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN AWARE OF THIS APPROACHING PROBLEM
(VIS-A-VIS THE CENTRAL DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS) SINCE
JANUARY. WE HAVE EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ORALLY TO
OSAA MEMBERS AND SOUGHT TO DO THE SAME TO MR. KOTWAS, WHO
UNFORTUNATELY, DID NOT CHECK IN WITH THE EMBASSY AS
REQUESTED. SAME RESERVATIONS WERE EXPRESSED TO BRUCE
MORGAN DURING HIS VISIT TO RIYADH IN AUGUST. REF B
(OSAA TELEX) WAS, HOWEVER, FIRST EMBASSY OPPORTUNITY TO
COMMENT FORMALLY.

3. AS STATED IN REF C, EMBASSY REGRETS NECESSITY TO
SLOW DOWN PROJECT, BUT A SLIGHTLY SLOWER DEVELOPMENT IS
PREFERABLE TO A PROJECT WHICH MIGHT OTHERWISE BE IN DIFFI-
CULTY. WE AGREE TO A GEOGRAPHER, A FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS
ADVISOR AND A PRINCIPAL STATISTICS ADVISOR. IF PRINCIPAL
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STATISTICS ADVISOR BELIEVES A DATA PROCESSING ADVISOR IS NECESSARY TO HIS WORK IN THE FIRST FEW MONTHS, EMBASSY IS WILLING TO SEE ONE SUCH ADVISOR ADDED TO TEAM WHICH WILL ARRIVE IN OCTOBER. THAT WOULD MEAN A TOTAL OF FIVE ADVISORS.

4. WE DOUBT THAT EVEN FIVE ADVISORS CAN ACTUALLY BE ABSORBED BY THE CDS. RECRUITMENT OF "BI-LINGUAL" TECHNICIANS FROM EGYPT IS A WORTHWHILE APPROACH THEORETICALLY; IN PRACTICE FEW, IF

ANY, OF THE TECHNICIANS SO RECRUITED HAVE EITHER THE ENGLISH OR THE BASIC SKILLS TO BE OF USE. STATEMENTS OF ALI RASHID SHOULD BE TAKEN WITH MORE THAN A GRAIN OF SALT; HE IS, IN FACT, THE BIGGEST FLY IN THE OINTMENT. IN ANY EVENT, WE THINK IT IS RISKY TO PROCEED ON THE BASIS OF PROMISED RECRUITMENT. IF THE PRINCIPAL STATISTICS ADVISOR SEES EVIDENCE OF COUNTERPART PERSONNEL IN BEING, THEN HE AND HE ALONE SHOULD AUTHORIZE MOVEMENT OF ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.

5. IF TREASURY/CENSUS BUREAU ARE AGREED THAT CENSUS PERSONNEL ARE TO HAVE AN ON-LINE RESPONSIBILITY AS STATED IN PARA. 2 OF REFTEL, THEN MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE IN ESTABLISHING THE POSITIONS SUCH ON-LINE PERSONNEL WILL HOLD, AND IN CLEARING THE CONCEPT WITH THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE. THIS INCLUDES THE PERSONNEL WHO WILL WORK IN DATA PROCESSING.

6. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, WILL AGREE TO EXPANSION OF OCTOBER TEAM TO FIVE RPT FIVE INDIVIDUALS (COUNTING WYNNE REPLACEMENT). INSTEAD OF PROVISION IN PARA 4 OF REFTEL A THAT NO MORE THAN SEVEN TEAMMEMBERS WILL BE ON SITE BY END OF YEAR, STIPULATION SHOULD READ "NO MORE THAN FIVE TEAM MEMBERS WILL BE ON SITE BY END OF YEAR UNLESS PRINCIPAL STATISTICS ADVISOR SPECIFICALLY REQUESTS ADDITIONAL TWO DATA PROCESSING ADVISORS AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD IN RIYADH." ADDITIONAL ADVISORS WILL BE PROGRAMMED BY THE PRINCIPAL ADVISOR IN CONSULTATION WITH THE USREP/JECOR OFFICE.
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